

José Joaquín
Moraga



Joseph Manuel
Valencia



Juan
Antonio
Amesquita



Juan Atanacio
Vásquez

My name is Manuel Valencia. I am 36 years old. My wife's name is María de la Luz Muñoz, and she is 30 years old. We have three children: two boys, Francisco 5 years old, Ignacio 2 and a girl, Gertrudis 7. I was a farm worker living in Villa de Sinaloa. Last spring Commander Anza asked for men who would be willing to join the army. Our pay is one peso every day. Life there had been very hard, and this would allow me to provide much better for my family, so I decided to enlist.

My name is José Joaquín Moraga. I am 30 years old having been baptized in 1745 at Guevavi, Sonora (now Arizona). I was the alférez at the Fronteras Presidio when I was asked by Commander Anza to be the second in command of a very important expedition from Tubac to Monterey in Alta California. This trek will be taking many families to this new land. I have been asked to stay in Alta California and be responsible for starting a new presidio and settlement in the San Francisco area. Each of the ones staying is to bring his family. As my wife has been very ill, she is not able to take this trip so I had to decline, but Colonel Anza has given me permission for her to travel when she is well enough, and I am going.

My name is Juan Atanacio Vásquez. I am 40 years old. My wife's name is Gertrudis Castelo, and she is 25 years old. We have two boys: Antonio 8 years old and Pedro José 7. I am also bringing my relative Juan Tiburcio, age 20. I have been a farm worker in Aqualulco, Sinaloa. Last spring when Colonel Anza set up his recruiting table in the plaza of Culiacán I listened to what he had to say and I was the first one to sign a contract to go on the expedition.

My name is Juan Antonio Amesquita. I am 35 years old. My wife's name is Juana Gaona, and she is 30 years old. We have five children, one boy: Manuel 14 years old, and four girls: Josefa 12, María Dolores 8, Matilde 4 and María de los Reyes Gertrudis 3. My son will bring his new wife, Rosalía Zamora, who is 13 years old. I am a soldier stationed at Tubac. Last spring Commander Anza selected me to move to Alta California to help found a new presidio. I accepted with pride as I will be one of the few he has chosen. Manuel was much too young when he married and he will need all the help we can give him. I hope that the opportunities in this new land will allow him to succeed.

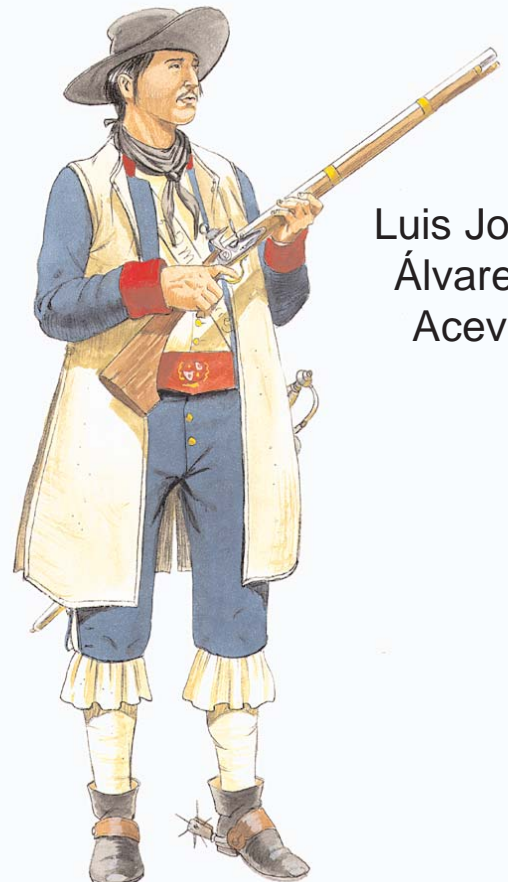


Juan Bautista de Anza

Juan Pablo
Grijalva



Juana Maria
Cardenas



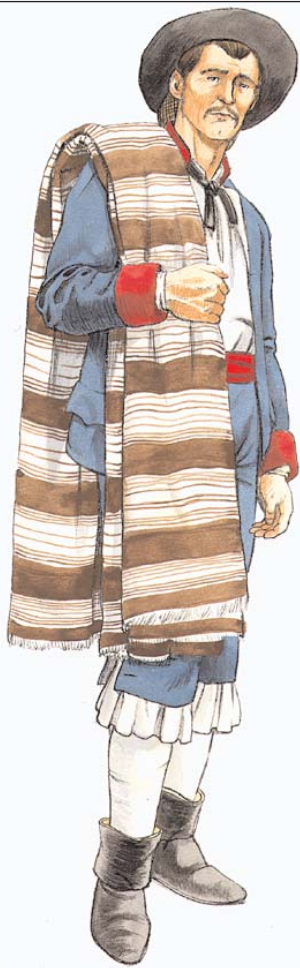
Luis Joaquín
Álvarez de
Acevedo

My name is Juan Pablo Grijalva. I was born at Guevavi, near Tumacacori, in 1744 and am 31 years old. My wife's name is Dolores Valencia. She is 31 years old. We are both españoles. We have two girls, Josefa 6, and Carmen 5 years old. Also going with us is my servant Claudio who is 21 years old. I was a cabo stationed at the Presidio of Terrenate. Commander Anza had asked Sergeant Espinosa to be third in command of the expedition to Alta California, but with his illness at Horcasitas, where three settlers died, Espinosa was so disabled that Anza asked me to replace him with a promotion to sergeant. This opportunity is given to me because of my ability to write and to lead men. Promotion to sergeant is an honor and is not common.

My name is Don Juan Bautista de Anza. I am 39 years old. I was born in Fronteras in Sonora, New Spain. My father was the commander of the Presidio at Fronteras where he was killed in a battle with the Apache Indians when I was not quite 3 years old. When I was 16 years old, my sister's husband, who was a soldier, began to teach me how to be a frontier soldier like my father and grandfather. By the time I was 25 years old, I was second in command at the Presidio in Tubac. When my commander there died suddenly in 1759, I became the Captain at Tubac. I married Ana María Pérez Serrano in 1771. Until 1773 I was asked to defend against the Apache and Seri Indians I did so. In 1774, I requested and was given the assignment to find a land route from Tubac to Monterey, Alta California. My father had made the same request many years before but died before he could do so. I was successful. When I returned, I was made Lieutenant Colonel. Then in 1775 I was given orders to recruit settler/soldiers to found a colony at San Francisco in Alta California and to take them there. I could offer them a salary at once and food, clothing, transport and land there. They knew that what Anza promises, Anza delivers. My wife will remain at the Presidio in Tubac while I am gone. I am planning on a seven-month trek of over 3,000 miles.

My name is Luis Joaquín Álvarez de Acevedo. I am 35 years old. My wife's name is Nicolasa Ortiz, and she is 30 years old. We have two children, a boy, Juan José 12 years old and a girl Francisca 6. I am a farm worker and lived in Villa de Sinaloa, Sinaloa, New Spain. Last spring Commander Anza asked for men who would like to join the army. He said that we would have the opportunity to learn how to be soldiers and then travel to Alta California. We hear that the land in Alta California is very rich and good for raising cattle. Our life here in Villa de Sinaloa has been very hard. The more I think about it, the better this opportunity looks to me, and my son is anxious to go also.

My name is Juana María Cárdenas, and I am 23 years old. My husband's name is Felipe Santiago Tapia and he is 39 years old. I have only been married to him for a short time. His first wife, Filomena Hernández, died, leaving him with eight children to care for. Since we have been married, we have had a little boy, Victorio who is now 6 months old. The other sons of my husband are: Bartolomé 11 years old, Juan José 9, Christobál 8 and Francisco 7. His daughters are: Rosa 13, Antonia 12, Manuela 6 and Isadora 5. Last spring when Commander Anza came to Culiacán and set up his recruiting table in the plaza the proclamation said they were particularly interested in large families. With my husband's eight children from his first wife and our new baby, my husband was very welcome.



Manuel Ramírez
Arellano



Maria Bárbara
Espinosa



Carmen del
Valle



María Dolores
Morales

My name is Bárbara Espinosa, and I am 18 years old. My husband is Ignacio Soto. He is 27 years old. We have two children, a boy Antonio 2 years old and a girl Francisca 1. When Commander Anza came to Villa de Sinaloa recruiting soldiers to go to Alta California he wanted couples with large families. We have only two children but we are young and healthy and expect to have many more and my husband was permitted to enlist. I am anxious to go as I have family there already. We are also bringing 14-year-old Simón Antonio, as there will be a large herd of horses and other livestock on the trail. Simon's help with them will be needed.

My name is Manuel Ramírez Arellano. I am 33 years old. My wife's name is Agueda López de Haro, and she is 17 years old. We are both Españoles. She was born in Álamos and I was born in Puebla de Los Angeles, both in Sonora. We have one little boy Mariano a year old. I was living in Horcasitas when Commander Anza came to Horcasitas and asked for men who would like to join the army. He said that we would have the opportunity to learn how to be soldiers and then travel to Alta California. I thought about it for two months, as my life here has not been that bad. I was told that land in Alta California is good for raising stock, and I have brood mares that I can take along. I will bring Mateo Vega, my muleteer, with me. I was accepted just a month ago.

My name is María Dolores Morales, and I am 26 years old. My husband's name is Antonio Sánchez, and he is 29 years old. We are both españoles. We have two children, a 3-year-old girl, Josefa, and a 2-year-old boy, Antonio. Last spring Commander Anza came to Villa de Sinaloa and asked if any men would be willing to become soldiers and move to Alta California to help found a new presidio. My husband and I talked it over. It will be a hard trip for us, especially since the children are so young and we will each have to carry one in front of us on horseback for many long days. We will be taking a very dangerous trail, and it is a very long trip. We will be given land in Alta California. We hear it is a good place to live and to bring up our two children. My husband is also happy, since he has always wanted to be a soldier but did not have an opportunity before.

My name is Carmen del Valle, and I am 40 years old and come from Sinaloa. My husband's name is Juan Salvio Pacheco, and he is 46 years old. With us are our three adult children: Miguel 25, Ignacio 15 and Gertrudis 13, and our two younger children: Bartolomé 10 and Bárbara 8. Miguel and Gertrudis will both be looking for someone they wish to marry. Although Ignacio is old enough to do a man's work, it will be another ten years before he is old enough to take the responsibility of a family. My husband and I have had a hard time bringing up our 5 children, and we hope that in this new land all of them will be able to marry well, have many children and prosper.